

REMARKS

This timely reply to the Office Action mailed on February 27, 2004. Claims 1 and 4-15 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 9 are independent claims. The Office Action indicates that claims 1 and 4-8 are allowed and claims 11 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,678,017 issued to Shimomaki, *et al.* ("Shimomaki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 9 recites "wherein said pixel electrode is multi-layered and comprises a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode". In this regard, the Examiner stated "wherein said pixel electrode is multi-layered [and] comprising a lower layer 57 formed of the same material as the drain electrode" (Office Action, page 3). This assertion is respectfully disagreed with.

Shimomaki describes "the metal layer portions such as the source and drain electrodes of the thin film transistor and the data line have a three-layered structure including the Cr film 55, the Al-based metal film 56, and the Cr film 57" (Column 11, lines 54-57). This means that the Cr film 57 is a part of the source electrode D, not a part of the pixel electrode 7. Also, as shown in Fig. 9, the pixel electrode 7 is a single layer, not multi-layered. Shimomaki fails to disclose or

suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 9 is patentable over Shimomaki Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claim 9.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomaki in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,509,942 (6,408,842 appears to be a typo) issued to Tanaka, *et al.* (“Tanaka”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 10 is dependent from claim 9. As previously mentioned, claim 9 is patentable over Shimomaki. For example, Shimomaki fails to disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”.

Tanaka is directed to a drain electrode 30d formed of ITO but does not disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”, as recited in claim 9. Since none of the cited references discloses or suggests this claimed feature, it would not have been obvious to combine the cited references to arrive at the invention of claim 9. Its dependent claim 10 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 10.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomaki in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,620,660 issued to Ohtani, *et al.* (“Ohtani”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 13 and 14 are dependent from claim 9. As previously mentioned, claim 9 is patentable over Shimomaki. For example, Shimomaki fails to disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”.

Ohtani discloses an interlayer insulating film made of an organic resin film but does not disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”, as recited in claim 9. Since neither Shimomaki nor Ohtani discloses or suggests this claimed feature, it would not have been obvious to combine the cited references to arrive at the invention of claim 9. Its dependent claims 13 and 14 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 13 and 14.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomaki in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,358,759 issued to Hirabayashi (“Hirabayashi”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 15 is dependent from claim 9. As previously mentioned, claim 9 is patentable over Shimomaki. For example, Shimomaki fails to disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”.

Hirabayashi is directed to arranging a light-shielding layer in an area facing and surrounding transistors, but does not disclose or suggest “said pixel electrode is *multi-layered* and comprises *a lower layer formed of the same material as the drain electrode*”, as recited in claim 9. Since neither Shimomaki nor Hirabayashi discloses or suggests this claimed feature, it would not have been obvious to combine the cited references to arrive at the invention of claim 9. Its dependent claim 15 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 15.

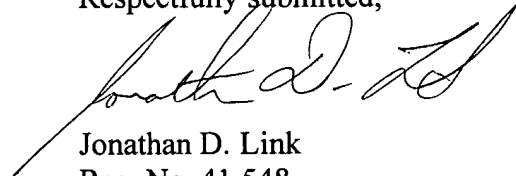
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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